

Appl. No. 10/624,281
Amendment dated February 3, 2005
Response to Office Action of August 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended): A mechanic's body support, comprising:

(a) a horizontally-extending base;

(b) a generally vertically extending support structure, said support structure having a lower end connected to said base, and an upper end;

(c) a knee pad attached to said support structure between said lower end and said upper end, for supporting the knees of the mechanic;

(d) a chest support rail attached to said upper end of said support structure and extending away from said support structure; ~~and~~

(~~e~~) a chest pad attached to said chest support rail, for supporting the chest of the mechanic, and

(f) a height adjustment assembly adapted for selectively mounting the knee pad in one of at least two vertical positions relative to the support structure and adapted for selectively mounting the knee pad at one of at least two angles relative to the support structure;

wherein said support structure, said base, said knee pad and said chest pad

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cooperate to define a structure for supporting a mechanic in an elevated position over an engine compartment of a motor vehicle.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended): A mechanic's body support according to claim 18 ~~20~~, wherein said height adjustment assembly comprises at least one slot defined by and extending through the support structure, and the knee pad includes at least one complementary post thereon for cooperating with said at least one slot.

22. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 21, wherein said slot and complementary post are each shaped and oriented relative to each other whereby the post is wedged into a selected one of a plurality of notches defined by the slot in response to downward pressure of the knee pad on the post, thereby permitting vertical and pivotal movement of the knee pad relative to the support structure.

23. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 18, wherein said support structure includes a length adjustment assembly for permitting the length of the support structure to be adjusted by movement of the support structure relative to the base.

24. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 23, wherein said base comprises a pair of spaced-apart base rails, each of said base rails comprising first and second tubular rail segments having respective straight and angled

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ends.

25. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 24, wherein said support structure comprises a pair of spaced-apart support rails, each of said support rails comprising third and fourth tubular rail segments having respective upper and lower ends, wherein each of said lower ends is movably connected to a respective one of said angled ends of the first and second tubular segments of each base rail, and said upper ends are connected together by a U-shaped tubular member.

26. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 25, wherein said length adjustment assembly comprises:

(a) a first plate connected between the first and second tubular rail segments of the base rail and including a first hole defined therethrough;

(b) a second plate connected between the third and fourth tubular rail segments of the support rail and including a vertically-oriented series of second holes defined therethrough at spaced-apart intervals; and

(c) a locking pin adapted for being inserted through said first hole and through a selected one of said second holes for releasably locking the support rail into a selected one of a plurality of vertical positions relative to the base rail.

27. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 26, wherein said chest support rail comprises a U-shaped tubular rail adapted for receiving the chest pad thereon and having terminal ends, each of said ends pivotally connected to

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a respective one of said U-shaped tubular members for positioning the chest pad relative to the support rails and base rails.

28. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 27, wherein the chest pad includes locating members defining complementary rail-receiving indents adapted for receiving said U-shaped tubular rail therein for connecting the chest pad to the U-shaped tubular rail.

29. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 27, and including a first pivot connected to each upper support rail segment for pivotally connecting a respective one of the terminal ends of the U-shaped tubular rail thereto for permitting limited movement of the U-shaped tubular rail through an arc for adjusting the pitch of the chest pad.

30. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 29, wherein said first pivot comprises:

(a) a third plate connected between the third and fourth tubular rail segments of the support rail;

(b) at least one slot defined by said third plate and extending therethrough, said at least one slot including a series of notches defined therein at spaced-apart intervals; and

(c) at least one complementary post included on each of said terminal ends of the U-shaped tubular rail for cooperating with the at least one slot for permitting pivotal

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movement of the U-shaped tubular rail relative to the support rails.

31. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 28, wherein the chest pad includes a fourth plate positioned between and connected to each of said locating members for permitting sliding movement of the chest pad relative to the U-shaped tubular rail.

32. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 18, and including at least one wheel positioned on said base for permitting said body support to roll as the body support is being moved.

33. (Previously Presented): A mechanic's body support according to claim 18, wherein said base is adapted for being moved between an unfolded, fully-extended use configuration and a folded storage configuration for permitting said body support to be stored when not in use.